



Sunday between November 13 and November 19 inclusive

YEAR C

Proper 28 (33)



The Church of Scotland

WELCOME



Interim Moderator: Rev Graham Austin
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The Church of Scotland

Auditoire de Calvin, November 16 2025

Harvest Thanksgiving

We stand to sing. After the doxology, we remain standing for the prayer of dedication. After the final hymn, we remain standing for the benediction and threefold Amen.

Prelude *God, Holy Creator of all Stars*

Nicolas Jacob Lemmens (1823–1881)

Introit *As rivers flow from a distant spring*

Welcome

Call to worship (from *Psalms* 100)

The earth is the Lord's, and the harvest is God's gift.

We enter God's courts with thanksgiving.

God's goodness has carried us through seedtime and growth.

We come with praise, for the Lord is faithful.

Let us worship with glad hearts.

For God's steadfast love endures for ever.

CH4 229 *We plough the fields and scatter*

Prayer of approach

Prayer of the day

Almighty God,

we give you thanks for your goodness in providing the fruits of the earth.

Grant us grace to use your gifts rightly, for your glory, for those in need, and for our well-being;

through Jesus Christ, the living bread, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Children - When our gifts become a harvest

CH4 231 *For the fruits of all creation*

(tune: CH4 562 *Ar Hyd Y Nos*)

Old Testament *Ruth 3:1-18*

One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, 'My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing-floor. Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes.

Then go down to the threshing-floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.'

'I will do whatever you say,' Ruth answered. So she went down to the threshing-floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned – and there was a woman lying at his feet!

'Who are you?' he asked.

'I am your servant Ruth,' she said. 'Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family.'

'The Lord bless you, my daughter,' he replied. 'This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: you have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.'

So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, 'No one must know that a woman came to the threshing-floor.'

He also said, 'Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.' When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.

When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, 'How did it go, my daughter?'

Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her and added, 'He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, "Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed."'

Then Naomi said, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."

CH4 64 *Sing all creation, sing to God in gladness (Psalm 100)*

Old Testament *Ruth 4:1-17*

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line."

"I will redeem it," he said.

Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

(Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his home town. Today you are witnesses!"

Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in

Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.
Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”
So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.”
Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Sermon *From Ruth’s field to Bethlehem’s child*

CH4 259 *Beauty for brokenness*

Prayers for others and Lord’s prayer

Offering

Offering music *Jesus Christ our Saviour*
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Doxology: CH4 807

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Prayers of thanksgiving and dedication

CH4 500 *Lord of creation, to you be all praise!*

Benediction and threefold Amen (CH4 819)

Postlude *Prelude and Fugue in G*
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

Retiring collection in aid of Gaza

Chaîne de Bonheur (Swiss Solidarity)
bonheur.ch/campagnes/gaza

*Join us for refreshments after the service
in the Salle Théodore de Bèze upstairs!*

Worship leader Rev Christine Colliar

Welcoming elder Alex Craeye

Ushers Freda Craeye, Amy Leger

Readers Freda Craeye, Alex Craeye

Prayers Jean Murray

Organ Rebecca Dirks MacDonald

Choir Páraic Réamonn

Sunday School Cornis Van der Lugt, George Hodge

Coffee Christine Buhler, Nan Braunschweiger

November 22 9h30 to 15h St Andrew's Fair

19h to 22h Cèilidh. Adults CHF35, children under 12 free. Salle communale des Delices, Rte de Colovrex 20, 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
ceilidhchurchofscotlandgeneva@gmail.com

November 24, 14h The book club will discuss Charles Dickens' *Bleak House* at the COOP Rues-Basses Fusterie restaurant (top floor, table near the window). Contact Gillian Friedli

November 24, December 1 & 7, 19h30–20h30

Advent Bible study online with the International Presbytery. Contact: Christine Colliar_ ccolliar@churchofscotland.org.uk

November 29, 9h30–17h The Ignatian Spirituality community invites us to an ecumenical Advent prayer day, at St John XXIII, Rue de Montbrillant 57, 1202 Geneva. Coffee, tea, croissants and lunch included. Free registration at www.isc-geneva.ch



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